12 February 1977

Dear Harold:

Thanks very much for sending Seven Days. Don't send any more, as we get it as a hangover from the late Ramparts, to which we had subscribed years in advance in an effort to help keep it afloat.

Glad to hear the past couple of days that your bad weather seems to be breaking up. Let's hope so. We hadn't worried, but were conscious of how uncomfortable and difficult life can be under such restricted conditions.

You may have heard by now of our drought. In Marin County, where it's most acute, our daily water ration is 43 gallons per person daily for people in a family of two. We get along nicely with this if we're careful, the only worry being that if Jenifer should develop serious trouble with her irrigation chore we'll need more. Fortunately they grant variances for health problems, so we expect to ask for a small margin to take care of any such. Using an array of buckets and big pans we are able to use some water three times before finally bidding it goodbye.

The whole state is in trouble, however, and the ultimate effect is going to be much higher food prices and other complications before it's over. We understand the drought extends as far east as Kansas, but it's not yet clear here just how dry things are east of the Sierra. Here the main problem is low reservoirs, this being the second dry year in a row. Only 14 inches of snow in the Sierra, where normally they have that many feet. The big pinch is yet to come, of course.

Best to you both,

Jim

jdw